

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A vehicle system for operation in a motor vehicle, comprising:

an operator control for operating the vehicle system;

a controller unit operatively connected to the operator control, wherein the ~~control~~ controller unit influences operation of the vehicle system requested by the operator control; and

an access detection device for determining which ~~one of vehicle occupants~~ occupant is accessing the operator control, the vehicle occupants including at least one of a driver and a passive front-seat passenger;

wherein the controller unit influences operation of the vehicle system requested by the operator control at least depending on which one of vehicle occupants is accessing the operator control;

wherein the access detection device includes at least one of: (i) a camera used with a software module for image detection, (ii) at least one video sensor, (iii) a radar sensor device, (iv) at least one depth sensor, and (v) at least one first microphone to detect a spoken command from one of the vehicle occupants.

12. (Previously Presented) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 11, further comprising:

a motion detection device for determining a motion status of the motor vehicle, wherein the controller unit influences operation of the vehicle system requested by the operator control additionally as a function of a detected motion status of the vehicle.

13. (Previously Presented) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 11, wherein the controller unit limits at least some operations of the vehicle system requested by the operator control if it is determined that the vehicle is in motion and the operator control is being accessed by the vehicle driver.

14. (Currently Amended) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 13, wherein the ~~access detection device includes~~ at least one video sensor is part of a video sensor system having an image-detection range that includes at least a driver seat and a front-seat passenger seat.

15. (Currently Amended) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 14, wherein the ~~access detection device includes one of~~ at least one video sensor is a stereo ~~and~~ or multi-camera video sensor.

16. (Previously Presented) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 15, wherein the access detection device takes into consideration the gray-scale value information contained in detected signals, in determining which one of the vehicle occupants is accessing the operator control.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 13, wherein the ~~access detection device includes~~ at least one depth sensor ~~which~~ utilizes the propagation time principle for detection.

19. (Previously Presented) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 13, wherein the access detection device includes at least one depth sensor which utilizes the laser scanner principle for detection.

20. (Previously Presented) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 13, wherein the access detection device includes at least one depth sensor which utilizes the structured lighting principle for detection.

21. (Currently Amended) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 11, further comprising:
a motion detection device for determining a motion status of the motor vehicle, wherein the controller unit influences operation of the vehicle system requested by the operator control additionally as a function of a detected motion status of the vehicle;
wherein the controller unit limits at least some operations of the vehicle system requested by the operator control if it is determined that the vehicle is in motion and the operator control is being accessed by the vehicle driver,

wherein ~~the access detection device includes~~ at least one video sensor is part of a video sensor system having an image-detection range that includes at least a driver seat and a front-seat passenger seat, and

wherein the ~~access detection device includes one of~~ at least one video sensor is a stereo ~~and~~ or multi-camera video sensor,

wherein the access detection device takes into consideration the gray-scale value information contained in detected signals, in determining which one of the vehicle occupants is accessing the operator control.

22. (Previously Presented) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the access detection device includes a radar sensor device, and wherein the access detection device includes at least one depth sensor which utilizes the propagation time principle for detection.

23. (Previously Presented) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the access detection device includes a radar sensor device, and wherein the access detection device includes at least one depth sensor which utilizes the laser scanner principle for detection.

24. (Previously Presented) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the access detection device includes a radar sensor device, and wherein the access detection device includes at least one depth sensor which utilizes the structured lighting principle for detection.

25. (New) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 11, wherein the software module makes an image pattern comparison by comparing a previously recorded image to a current image taken while the vehicle system is being accessed.

26. (New) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 11, wherein the software module uses an image detection algorithm to make an image pattern comparison.

27. (New) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 11, wherein an at least one second microphone is installed spatially separated from the first microphone to detect whether a voice command sequence has been given by the driver or the front-seat passenger.

28. (New) The vehicle system as recited in Claim 27, wherein a first signal emitted from the first microphone and a second signal emitted from the second microphone are supplied to the software module which uses the propagation time principle to determine whether the voice command sequence has been given by the driver or the front-seat passenger.